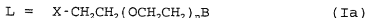CLAIMS

1.   A method for removing water from surfaces of various ma-
     terials, comprising the steps of covering said surface
     with a composition having a specific weight higher than
     that of the water and subsequently removing water from
     the composition by skimming, wherein a composition essen-
     tially consisting of the following components is used:
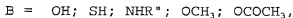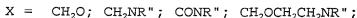
     A)   a   non   ionic additive having a fluoropolyether
          structure with a fluorinated T end group containing
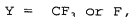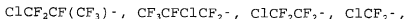   one chlorine atom, having the following formula:

          $T-OR_f(CFY)-L$ (I)

          wherein

          $L = X-CH_2CH_2(OCH_2CH_2)_nB$ (Ia)

               wherein:

               $X = CH_2O; CH_2NR"; CONR"; CH_2OCH_2CH_2NR";$

                    $CH_2OCOCH_2O;$

               $B = OH; SH; NHR"; OCH_3; OCOCH_3,$

               with $R"= H; C_{1-3}$ alkyl,

          T is a fluorinated radical selected from

          $ClCF_2CF(CF_3)-, CF_3CFClCF_2-, ClCF_2CF_2-, ClCF_2-,$

          $Y = CF_3$ or F,

          the radical R_f being of (per)fluoropolyether type;

          being in said additive of formula (I):

   -   the number average molecular weight of the

fluoroether part $T-OR_f-$ in the range 400-2,000,

- the ratio by weight (K) between the fluorinated part and the hydrogenated L part of the additive is in the range 1.50-4.00; the n parameter in formula (Ia) being such as to meet said ratio;

B) a perfluoropolyether having number average molecular weight in the range 300-900, the ratio K^I between the number average molecular weight of the fluoropolyether part $T-OR_f-$ of the additive and the number average molecular weight of component B) being higher than 1.60.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the number average molecular weight of the fluoroether part $T-OR_f-$ of the compounds of formula (I) component A) is preferably in the range 500-1,200, still more preferably in the range 600-1,000.

3. A method according to claims 1-2, wherein the perfluoropolyether component B) has number average molecular weight preferably in the range 300-650.

4. A method according to claims 1-3, wherein the radical R_f of fluoropolyether type preferably comprises repeating units statistically distributed along the polymer chain

(AF 2338/031.EST)

selected from: (CF_2CF_2O), $(CFYO)$ wherein Y is equal to F or CF_3, (C_3F_6O); $(CF_2(CF_2)_zO)$ wherein z is an integer equal to 2 or 3; $(CF_2CF(OR_{f'})O)$, $(CF(OR_{f'})O)$ wherein $R_{f'}$ is equal to $-CF_3$, $-C_2F_5$, $-C_3F_7$; $CR_4R_5CF_2CF_2O$ wherein R_4 and R_5 are equal to or different from each other and selected between Cl or perfluoroalkyl, preferably having 1-4 carbon atoms.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the group R_f comprises the following repeating units:

(a) $-(CF_2CF(CF_3)O)_a(CFYO)_b-$
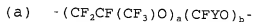
wherein Y is F or CF_3; a and b are integers such that the molecular weight is in the above range; a/b is in the range 10-100;

(b) $-(CF_2CF_2O)_c(CF_2O)_d(CF_2(CF_2)_zO)_h-$
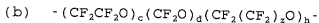
wherein c, d and h are integers such that the molecualr weight is within the above range; c/d is in the range 0.1-10; h/(c+d) is in the range 0-0.05, z has the above value, h can be equal to 0;

(c) $-(CF_2CF(CF_3)O)_e(CF_2CF_2O)_f(CFYO)_g-$
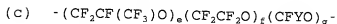
wherein Y is F or CF_3; e, f, g are integers such that the molecular weight is within the above range; e/(f+g) is in the range 0.1-10, f/g is in the range 2-10;

(d) $-(CF_2O)_j(CF_2CF(OR_{f'})O)_k(CF(OR_{f'})O)_l-$
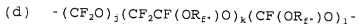
wherein: $R_{f'}$ is $-CF_3$, $-C_2F_5$, $-C_3F_7$; j,k,l are integers

such that the molecular weight is within the above

range; $k+l$ and $j+k+l$ are at least equal to 2,

$k/(j+l)$ is in the range 0.01-1,000, l/j is in the

range 0.01-100;

(e) $-(CF_2(CF_2)_zO)_s-$
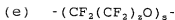
wherein s is an integer such as to give the above

molecular weight, z has the already defined meaning;

(f) $-(CR_4R_5CF_2CF_2O)_{j'}-$
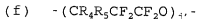
wherein R_4 and R_5 are equal to or different from each

other and selected from H, Cl or perfluoroalkyl,

having 1-4 carbon atoms, j' being an integer such

that the molecular weight is the above one;

(g) $-(CF(CF_3)CF_2O)_{j''}-$
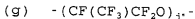
j'' being an integer such to give the above

molecular weight.

6. A method according to claims 1-5, wherein the value K^I is

higher than 2.00 and preferably in the range 2.00-3.00.

7. A method according to claims 1-6, wherein the perfluoro-

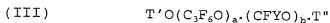polyether component B) preferably has the following

structure:

$T'-O-R_f-T''$

wherein:

R_f has the above meaning;

T'and T", equal to or different, are selected from $-CF_3$, $-C_2F_5$, $-C_3F_7$.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the perfluoropoly-ether component B) has a structure selected from the following:

(III) $T'O(C_3F_6O)_{a}.(CFYO)_{b}.T"$

   wherein Y = F or CF_3, a" and b" are integers such that the molecular weight is within the range with a"/b" in the range 1-40; T' and T" are as above defined.

(IV) $T'O(C_2F_4O)_{p}(CF_2O)_{q}T"$
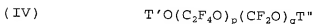
   wherein p and q are integers such that the molecular weight is within the indicated range with p/q in the range 0.6-1.2; T' and T" are as above.

(V) $T'O(C_3F_6O)_{s}.T"$

   wherein s' is an integer such that the molecular weight is within the indicated range; T'and T" are as above.

9. A method according to claims 1-8, wherein the amount of additive A) in the compositions is lower than or equal to 0.1% by weight, preferably lower than 0.05% with respect to the total weight of the composition.

10. A composition according to claims 1-9.

11. Non ionic additive having a fluoropolyether structure

according to claims 1-9.